

Time's Warning.

I am Time. Though men abuse me,
I that sin will lightly scan
If at last they only use me
For the common good of man.

Though for years they may idle,
Though awhile they doubt or dream,
I my righteous wrath will bridle
If their folly they redeem.

Let them have a while of pleasure,
Let them have a time of rest;
But, remember, I will measure
Every soul — the final test.

Let them sin if sin be pleasant;
Let them dream instead of toil,
Wasting all the golden present,
Storing not the wine and oil.

Let them rest while others travail,
Play while other agonize
Over truths they would unravel
That the truth may make them wise.

But remember that disaster
Will attend their fatal lack;
I am Time, and I am master;
None can turn the dial back.

Be they Adam, Gaesar, Hector,
Be they Xerxes or St. Paul,
I of men am no respecter;
I am ruler of them all.

Dream your dream if dreams delight you;
Sin your sin, but only know
That my wrath at last will smite you
If a single hour you owe.

—WILLIS LEONARD CLANAHAN.

